

Purple Loosestrife Control

Galerucella Beetle Rearing Project

A Partnership between Save the
Dunes Conservation Fund and
NiSource, and anyone else who wants to
participate

Goal

- Form a regional team to coordinate the rearing of galerucella beetles and to release them on properties where active purple loosestrife control is not taking place.

Strategy

- Identify Partners
- Locate areas of Purple Loosestrife infestations
- Raise and Release beetles
- Monitor Progress of control
- Repeat annually

Our Plan to Raise *Galerucella*

1. Find a location to grow purple loosestrife
2. Construct water containment structure suitable to hold 100-5 gallon pots
3. Harvest purple loosestrife root crowns in the spring

4. Pot purple loosestrife root crowns and let grow for 12 weeks.

5. Acquire *Galerucella* beetles and introduce them to the loosestrife, about 20-25 per plant, add nets to pots



From Cornell University Web site

6. Let beetles do their thing



From Cornell University Web site

- Female beetles will lay eggs within 2 weeks of being placed in cages
- New adults will be present between 6-8 weeks after being introduced to the plants.
- 500-1000 new beetles will be produced at each pot.

7. Beetle Release

- Entire pot and net will be transported to pre selected wetland
- Netting removed
- Site will be marked and recorded for monitoring
- A return visit is necessary to remove purple loosestrife and pot.

Rearing site

- Controlled location away from wetlands
- Examples
 - **New Hampshire State Prison in Concord**
 - **Springfield State Prison, South Dakota**

Possibly Westville Correctional Center

Release site selection

- Areas where purple loosestrife is not under any other type of control regime.
- Areas where mechanical or chemical control area not feasible
- Property owner permission

How will we measure success?

- Participation volunteers/landowners/managers
- Good site and program to rear beetles
- Distribution of beetles for release at a variety of sites - impact to PL population
- Monitoring Program
- Continued funding through NiSource Environmental Challenge Fund or other